



MI-CW3909

# Michigan Crop Weather

September 28, 2009

## Much Needed Rainfall

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 27, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.35 inch in the southeast Lower Peninsula to 1.46 inches in the northeast Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 5 degrees above normal in the southwest Lower Peninsula to 8 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula. Weather conditions were ideal for crop development; warm temperatures and precipitation pushed row crops closer to maturity. Timely rains also helped to improve soil moisture and soften the ground. Growers continued to hope for a late frost, to allow crops to fully mature.

## Field Crops

Mild temperatures and light precipitation have continued the advancement of crops. The lack of significant moisture has made harvest and planting difficult for some farmers and better for others. A slight frost last week did not severely impact crops. **Wheat** planting continued. It was stated that wheat planting may not begin until late October, depending on how quickly soybean harvest progresses. **Oats**, in the Upper Peninsula, were being combined. A reporter in the southeast stated, “The light frost of last weekend scorched **corn** and **soybeans** in a few low pockets, but no widespread damage was done.” In the south central, stalks of corn had begun to dry down from the bottom. It was noted that this should help ears. Corn for silage harvest was underway and was nearing completion in some areas. Soybeans were drying down. Some fields have been combined, primarily for test weights. **Alfalfa** harvest continued. **Sugarbeet** harvest was underway. Difficulty in harvesting the crop continued. Some beets were busting and or snapping instead of “lifting” easily from the soil. However, harvest should become easier with expected moisture. **Dry bean** harvest was well underway. The precipitation received last week provided the crop with much needed moisture.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/27/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	12	29	57	2
Subsoil	11	35	53	1

Crop condition for week ending 09/27/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	3	8	31	47	11
Corn	4	13	27	44	12
Dry beans	6	11	41	34	8
Pasture	6	15	44	30	5
Soybeans	3	12	31	45	9

## Fruit

In the southwest, harvest of McIntosh, Jonathan, Jonagold, and Empire **apple** varieties were winding down and picking of Golden delicious apples increased; fruit size and quality were good. In the east, growers were picking Gala and Cortland apple varieties; harvest of McIntosh varieties was completed. Apple varieties were not ripening in their typical order. **Peach** harvest wrapped up. **Pear** and **Plum** harvest were completed. Niagara **grape** harvest began in the southwest; the Concord harvest is expected to begin next week.

## Vegetables

**Tomatoes** were still being harvested on many commercial farms and home gardens. Late blight had a negative impact on some organic tomatoes and in fields where growers did not implement a pre-planned program of fungicide applications. **Pepper** harvest continued with most growers reporting good yields and quality. **Winter squash** and **pumpkins** were also being harvested; growers in the southeast reported that some fields still required more development time. **Cantaloup** and **watermelon** harvests were winding down; disease problems have reduced yields in several areas. **Sweet corn** harvest was also winding down across the State. Growers have reported generally good yields, but noted that some fields will not ripen due to the cool summer conditions. In the southeast, **potato** harvest continued with above average yields observed on many fields. In the southwest, **eggplant** harvest continued, with many fields showing excellent fruit development. In the Grand Rapids area, **celery** harvest was 75 percent complete with varying yields depending upon rain accumulation in August. **Onion** harvest was about two-thirds complete, with many reporting good quality and size except where downy mildew problems were severe. **Carrots** were about 50 percent harvested with good yields reported so far. **Lettuce** and **bokchoy** harvest were nearly complete with positive reports. Harvest of cole crops, including **radishes**, **cabbage**, **cauliflower**, and **broccoli**, were winding down, with yields and quality at average or better.

Crop progress for week ending 09/27/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, third cutting	81	66	80	86
All hay, fourth cutting	33	26	25	30
Apples, harvested	30	22	35	39
Corn, dough	96	89	100	99
Corn, dent	80	64	95	93
Corn, mature	19	10	55	63
Corn silage, harvested	38	14	72	79
Dry beans, turning leaves	99	84	99	100
Dry beans, dropping leaves	78	69	80	95
Dry beans, harvested	42	22	29	57
Peaches, harvested	98	92	98	98
Potatoes, harvested	38	36	43	46
Soybeans, turning leaves	83	65	96	91
Soybeans, dropping leaves	53	23	77	69
Sugarbeets, harvested	8	3	6	5
Winter wheat, planted	20	8	12	22

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/27/09 <sup>1</sup>

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	73	39		1,831	1,893		0.77	0.88	0.88	12.15		
Marquette	73	39		1,696	1,788		0.77	0.88	0.88	13.68		
Stephenson	78	44		2,065	2,191		1.16	1.16	1.16	14.32		
<b>Western UP</b>	78	33	8	1,813	1,863	1,891	0.78	0.91	0.91	13.56	19.69	3.58
Cornell	71	45		1,891	2,083		0.60	0.74	0.76	12.93		
Sault St Marie	71	43		1,701	1,819		0.35	0.35	0.41	13.56		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	75	38	7	1,691	1,820	1,674	0.46	0.66	0.68	14.73	18.63	3.55
Beulah	74	50		2,112	2,388		1.00	1.28	1.28	19.14		
Lake City	74	42		2,009	2,233		1.72	2.60	2.60	20.29		
Old Mission	74	46		1,999	2,277		0.59	0.59	0.59	12.93		
Pellston	73	37		1,879	2,128		0.65	0.69	0.69	13.07		
<b>Northwest</b>	76	37	6	1,952	2,195	2,162	0.93	1.16	1.19	14.35	17.66	3.66
Alpena	75	45		1,987	2,217		2.28	2.32	2.32	21.34		
Houghton Lake	73	38		2,024	2,287		1.05	2.13	2.13	18.40		
Rogers City	74	44		1,945	2,184		1.33	1.75	1.75	22.50		
<b>Northeast</b>	76	38	6	1,980	2,217	2,090	1.46	1.93	1.93	19.47	17.60	3.47
Fremont	77	47		2,293	2,474		2.47	2.47	2.47	17.41		
Hart	75	51		2,163	2,370		0.92	0.97	0.97	17.79		
Muskegon	78	54		2,502	2,524		1.67	1.97	1.97	16.55		
<b>West Central</b>	78	36	6	2,275	2,421	2,363	1.26	1.59	1.59	17.78	17.77	3.19
Alma	79	40		2,326	2,586		0.71	0.81	0.81	19.89		
Big Rapids	78	38		2,177	2,451		0.40	0.42	0.42	20.70		
<b>Central</b>	79	38	6	2,254	2,503	2,438	0.66	0.70	0.70	18.66	18.57	3.09
Bad Axe	79	49		2,202	2,488		0.82	1.06	1.06	17.44		
Pigeon	78	46		2,167	2,392		0.52	0.52	0.52	17.17		
Saginaw	80	48		2,411	2,660		0.61	0.93	0.94	16.85		
Standish	80	44		2,145	2,345		1.29	1.61	1.61	16.89		
<b>East Central</b>	80	44	6	2,190	2,494	2,447	0.73	0.96	0.96	17.79	16.59	2.70
Fennville	80	49		2,369	2,530		0.43	0.44	0.44	19.36		
Grand Rapids	79	52		2,630	2,869		0.64	0.95	0.99	22.26		
Holland	79	49		2,719	2,898		0.74	1.28	1.54	31.80		
South Bend, IN	81	52		2,774	2,966		0.33	0.33	0.40	22.06		
Watervliet	80	50		2,561	2,718		0.62	0.67	0.74	18.67		
<b>Southwest</b>	82	38	5	2,575	2,743	2,667	0.72	0.81	0.87	20.21	19.15	3.26
Belding	78	52		2,303	2,544		0.45	0.45	0.45	18.89		
Coldwater	85	51		2,643	2,720		0.21	0.24	0.38	18.04		
Lansing	80	50		2,479	2,761		0.37	0.54	0.54	24.82		
<b>South Central</b>	85	41	6	2,429	2,679	2,619	0.45	0.59	0.74	20.59	18.81	2.79
Detroit	80	55		2,842	3,058		0.25	0.65	1.20	19.70		
Flint	80	47		2,436	2,788		0.67	0.96	0.96	23.10		
Romeo	79	51		2,444	2,648		0.19	0.92	1.99	18.95		
Tipton	82	53		2,535	2,753		0.43	0.86	1.86	18.97		
Toledo, OH	81	56		2,846	3,020		0.55	1.07	3.02	19.50		
<b>Southeast</b>	84	41	7	2,554	2,820	2,619	0.35	0.64	1.40	18.41	17.86	2.43

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup> Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.